

# Yimei XIANG

Department of Linguistics  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

[xiang.yimei@gmail.com](mailto:xiang.yimei@gmail.com)  
[scholar.harvard.edu/yxiang](http://scholar.harvard.edu/yxiang)

## AREAS OF INTEREST

---

Broad: Semantics, philosophy of language, formal logic, syntax-semantics interface, experimental and Bayesian approaches to semantics and pragmatics, East Asian linguistics

Narrow:

- Questions, free relatives, *wh*-conditionals
- Focus, polarity items, implicatures, Alternative Semantics
- Functional particles in East Asian languages
- Attitudes, belief, knowledge
- Neg-raising, negation and aspects

## EDUCATION

---

2010–16 **Ph.D. in Linguistics**  
Department of Linguistics, Harvard University  
Dissertation title: “*Interpreting Questions with Non-Exhaustive Answers.*”  
Committee: Gennaro Chierchia (co-chair), Danny Fox, C.-T. James Huang (co-chair)

2006–10 **B.A. in Chinese Linguistics**  
Department of Chinese, Peking University  
Thesis title: “Focus and Negation in Mandarin.”

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

2016–17 **Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA, USA  
College Fellow, Department of Linguistics

2017 **University van Amsterdam**, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Visiting scholar, Institute for Logic, Language, and Computation (ILLC), March

2017 **University of Chicago**, Chicago, IL, USA  
Visiting scholar, Department of Linguistics, Fall

2014–15 **Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA, USA  
Departmental Teaching Fellow, The Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning.

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Journal papers

2017 *Alternations of logical functions: Mandarin particle *dou* as a pre-exhaustification exhaustifier.*  
In revisions for resubmission to *Journal of Semantics*. 39pp.

2017 *ONLY: An NPI-licenser and NPI-unlicenser.*  
*Journal of Semantics* 34 (3): 447-481. DOI: [10.1093/jos/ffx006](https://doi.org/10.1093/jos/ffx006)

## Peer-reviewed conference proceedings

- 2016 **Mandarin particle *DOU*: A pre-exhaustification exhaustifier.**  
Christopher Piñón (ed.), *Empirical Issues in Syntax and Semantics* (vol 11): 275-304. Paris: Colloque de Syntaxe et Sémantique à Paris.

## Conference Proceedings with peer-reviewed abstracts

- 2017 *Wh*-items quantify over polymorphic sets.  
In preparation for *Proceedings of Chicago Linguistics Society 53*.
- 2017 **Mentions-some readings of plural-marked questions: Experimental evidence.**  
Yimei Xiang and Alexandre Cremers.  
In Andrew Lamont and Katerina A. Tetzloff (eds.), *Proceedings of North East Linguistics Society 47* (vol 3): 261-274, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- 2016 **Solving the dilemma between uniqueness and mention-some.**  
In Brandon Prickett and Christopher Hammerly (eds.), *Proceedings of North East Linguistics Society 46* (vol 3): 285-298. Concordia University, Montréal.
- 2016 **Complete and true: A uniform analysis for mention-some and mention-all.**  
In Bade, Nadine, Polina Berezovskaya and Anthea Schöller (eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 20*: 815-830. University of Tübingen, Tübingen.
- 2015 **Mention-some readings of questions: Complexities from number marking.**  
In Thomas Brochhagen, Floris Roelofsen and Nadine Theiler (eds.), *Proceedings of Amsterdam Colloquium 20*: 438-447. Institute for Logic, Language, and Computation (ILLC), University van Amsterdam, Amsterdam.
- 2015 **A grammatical view of exhaustification with focus movement: Evidence from NPI.**  
In Eva Csipak and Hedde Zeijlstra (eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 19*: 657-674. University of Göttingen, Göttingen.
- 2014 **Neg-raising: Focus and implicatures.**  
In Urtzi Etxeberria, Anamaria Fălăuș, Aritz Irurtzun and Bryan Leferman (eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 18*: 487-503. University of the Basque Country, Vitoria-Gasteiz.
- 2013 Neg-raising and aspect: Evidence from Mandarin.  
In *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics*. Vol. 19 (1): 257-266. University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania.

## Dissertation

- 2016 ***Interpreting questions with non-exhaustive answers.***  
Ph.D. dissertation. Harvard University. MA: Cambridge.

## Manuscripts

- 2014 **Obligatory neg-raising in Mandarin: Negatives and aspects.**  
Manuscript, Harvard University.

## PRESENTATIONS

---

### Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

- 2017      *Wh*-items quantify over polymorphic sets.  
Chicago Linguistics Society (CLS) 53, University of Chicago, Chicago. May 25-27.
- 2017      Composing questions: A hybrid categorial approach.  
Workshop of Compositionality at the Interfaces, Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW) 40, Leiden University Centre for Linguistics (LUCL). March 14.
- 2016      Mentions-some readings of plural-marked questions: Experimental evidence.  
North East Linguistics Society (NELS) 47, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. October 14-16. [with Alexandre Cremers]
- 2016      Deriving the ambiguity of mention-some questions by pre-exhaustifications.  
Linguistic Society of America (LSA) Annual Meeting 90, Washington. January 7-10.
- 2015      Mention-some readings of questions: Complexities from number-marking.  
Amsterdam Colloquium (AC) 20, Institute for Logic, Language, and Computation (ILLIC), University van Amsterdam. December 16-18.
- 2015      Solving the dilemma between uniqueness and mention-some.  
North East Linguistics Society (NELS) 46, Concordia University, Montréal. October 16-18.
- 2015      Mandarin *dou* as a pre-exhaustification operator: Quantification and free choice.  
European Association of Chinese Linguistics (EACL) 9, University of Stuttgart. September 24-26.
- 2015      Mandarin *dou* as a pre-exhaustification operator: Quantification and free choice”  
Linguistics Association of Great Britain (LAGB) 2015, University College London, London. September 15-18.
- 2015      Complete and true: A uniformed analysis for mention-some and mention-all.  
Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB) 20, University of Tübingen. September 9-12.
- 2015      Sensitivity to false answers. [Poster]  
Experimental Pragmatics (XPRAG) 2015, University of Chicago and Northwestern University, Chicago. July 16-18.
- 2015      Mention-all versus mention-some: Exhaustivity and sensitivity to false answers.  
Experimental and crosslinguistic evidence for the distinction between implicatures and presuppositions” (ImPres), ZAS, Berlin. July 1-3.
- 2015      Multiple exhaustifications and multiple scalar items.  
Penn Linguistics Conference (PLC) 39, University of Pennsylvania. March 20-22.
- 2014      Obligatory neg-raising in Mandarin: Negatives and aspects.  
Theoretical East Asian Linguistics (TEAL) 9, University of Nantes. September 25-26.
- 2014      A grammatical view of exhaustification with focus movement: Evidence from NPI.  
Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB) 19, University of Göttingen. September 15-17.

- 2014 Focus structure and NPI-licensing. [Poster]  
Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW) 37, KU Leuven HUBrussel. April 2-11.
- 2013 Neg-raising: Focus and implicatures. [Poster]  
Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB) 18, University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), Vitoria-Gasteiz. September 11-13.
- 2012 Neg-raising and aspect: Evidence from Mandarin. [Poster]  
Penn Linguistics Colloquium (PLC) 36, University of Pennsylvania. March 23-25.

### Invited Presentations

- 2018 TBD [Seminar talk]  
Department of Linguistics. Rutgers University. Feb 7.
- 2018 TBD [Job talk]  
Department of Linguistics. Rutgers University. Feb 6.
- 2017 Alternations of logical functions: Mandarin particle *dou* as a pre-exhaustification exhaustifier.  
School of English Studies, Beijing Language and Culture University. July 5.
- 2017 Sensitivity to false answers in interpreting questions under attitudes.  
School of Foreign Languages, Tsinghua University. July 4.
- 2017 Reviving the categorial approach: What does a question denote?"  
Department of Chinese, Peking University. July 3.
- 2017 Semantics bootcamp: Questions"  
Department of Chinese, Peking University. July 2.
- 2017 What does a question denote?  
The First Forum for International Young Scholars. School of Foreign Languages, Shanghai Jiao Tong University. June 28.
- 2017 Alternations of logical functions: Mandarin particle *dou* as a pre-exhaustification exhaustifier.  
School of Foreign Languages, Shanghai Jiao Tong University. June 27.
- 2017 Composing complex questions: Multi-*wh* questions and questions with quantifiers.  
The Discourse and Philosophy (DIP) Colloquium. Institute for Logic, Language and Computation (ILLC), University van Amsterdam. March 17.
- 2017 Sensitivity to false answers in interpreting questions under attitudes.  
Inquisitive Semantics seminar, Institute for Logic, Language, and Computation (ILLC), University van Amsterdam. March 17.
- 2016 Mandarin particle *dou*: A pre-exhaustification exhaustifier.  
Workshop of Exhaustivity and Cognitive Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. September 10.
- 2016 Sensitivity to false answers in indirect questions.  
Workshop of Attitudes and Questions, Center for Formal Epistemology, Carnegie Mellon University. June 10-11.

- 2015 Deriving disjunctive mention-all answers.  
Inquisitive Semantics closing workshop Questions in Semantics and Logic. Institute for Logic, Language and Computation (ILLC), University van Amsterdam. December 15.
- 2015 Solving the dilemma between uniqueness and mention-some.  
Department of Linguistics, University College London. September.
- 2015 Uniqueness, mention-some, and mention-all.  
Zentrum für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft (ZAS), Berlin. June.
- 2015 Uniqueness, mention-some, and mention-all.  
The DFG Meeting: Questions in Discourse, University of Göttingen. June.

### **Other Presentations (non peer-reviewed)**

- 2017 Sensitivity to false answers in interpreting questions under attitudes.  
PhiLing Workshop. Northwestern University. November 10.
- 2017 Composing pair-list readings: Multi-*wh* questions versus questions with quantifiers.  
Workshop in honor of David Pesetsky's 60th birthday. MIT. February 11. [Poster]
- 2016 Short answers, mention-some, and uniqueness: A hybrid approach for questions.  
Logical Form Reading Group (LFRG), Linguistics Department, MIT. February 17.
- 2015 Number-marking in *wh*-questions: Uniqueness and mention-some.  
Logical Form Reading Group (LFRG), Linguistics Department, MIT. March 30.
- 2014 Complete and true: a uniform analysis for mention-some and mention-all questions.  
Logical Form Reading Group (LFRG), Linguistics Department, MIT. October 23.
- 2014 Mention-some and mention-all readings of modalized questions.  
Harvard Graduate Student Workshop in Linguistics 2014, Harvard University. Nov 22.
- 2014 Interpreting indirect *wh*-interrogatives: From an experimental perspective.  
Language and Cognition, Psychology Department, Harvard University. October 21.
- 2014 A semantic approach to the distribution of mention-some questions.  
The DFG Meeting: Questions in Discourse, University of Göttingen. September 18-20.
- 2014 Exhaustification, focus structure and NPI-licensing.  
Logical Form Reading Group (LFRG), Linguistics Department, MIT. March 20.
- 2013 Focus structure and NPI-licensing.  
Harvard Graduate Student Workshop in Linguistics 2013, Harvard University. Nov 23.
- 2013 Covert *only* versus overt *only*: Evidence from NPI-licensing.  
Southern New England Workshop in Semantics (SNEWS) 2013, MIT. Nov 16.
- 2011 Negation is not always focus-sensitive.  
Southern New England Workshop in Semantics (SNEWS) 2011, UConn. April 16.
- 2011 Canonical Negatives and Aspectual Markers in Mandarin.  
Harvard Graduate Student Workshop in Linguistics 2011, Harvard University. Nov 19.

### **TEACHING**

---

### As pedagogy consultant

- 2014-15 Departmental Teaching Fellow, The Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning.
- Led workshops on pedagogy for teaching fellows in linguistics.
  - Reviewed syllabi and video records of classes for tutorial instructors.
  - Acted as a consultant for concerns and strategies related to teaching.

### As primary instructor

- 2017 **Knowledge of Meaning.**  
Undergraduate semantics, Spring.
- 2017 Word Structure.  
Undergraduate morphology, Spring.
- 2016 **Semantics of Questions.**  
Graduate seminar, Fall.
- 2014 Mathematical Methods in Linguistics.  
Sophomore tutorial, Spring.
- 2013 The Meaning of Negation.  
Junior tutorial, Fall.
- 2013 Intensional Semantics.  
Junior tutorial, Fall.
- 2013 Mathematical Methods in Linguistics.  
Sophomore tutorial, Spring.
- 2013 Chinese Phonology and Phonetics.  
Sophomore tutorial, Spring.
- 2012 The Meaning of Negation.  
Junior tutorial, Fall.

### As teaching fellow

- 2014 Knowledge of Meaning.  
Undergraduate semantics, primary instructor Andreea Cristina Nicolae.
- 2012 Language, Structure, and Cognition.  
Introduction to linguistics, primary instructor Li Julie Jiang.

### REVIEWING

---

- Journals
- *Journal of Semantics*: 2015×2, 2016×2, 2017
  - *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*: 2016, 2018
  - *Journal of Linguistics*: 2016
  - *Syntax*: 2016
  - *Semantics-Syntax Interface*: 2015
- Conference abstracts
- Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT): 2018
  - Inquisitiveness Below and Beyond the Sentence Boundary (InqBnB): 2017

- Amsterdam Colloquium: 2017
- North East Linguistic Society (NELS): 2016, 2017
- Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB): 2017
- Non-At-Issue Meaning and Information Structure (NAIS): 2017
- Generative Linguistics in the Old World (GLOW): 2017
- Semantics of African, Asian, and Austronesian Languages (TripleA): 2017, 2018
- GLOW-in-Asia: 2017
- Linguistic Society of America (LSA): 2017
- Israel Association for Theoretical Linguistics (ITAL): 2016
- ESSLLI Student Session: 2014

Others • Postgraduate Academic Researchers in Linguistics at York (PARLAY): 2016

## **OTHERS**

---

Language Mandarin (Native), English (Fluent), Japanese (Basic)

Technical  $\LaTeX$ , Python, R, SPSS, Praat, Adobe Illustrator (digital art design)